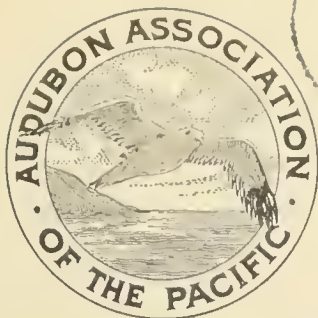


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NUMBER 3

MARCH MEETING: The next regular meeting of the Association will be held on Thursday evening, 8th inst., at eight o'clock, in the Assembly Hall of the Public Library, corner of McAllister and Larkin Streets. Take elevator to third floor. Car lines No. 5 or No. 19.

Mrs. G. E. Kelly will deliver an address on "Observations of Birds in the Sequoia National Park and in other portions of Tulare County." This is a district upon which none of our previous lecturers has touched. Mrs. Kelly's exceptional opportunities hereabouts have equipped her for a lecture which will be found highly interesting to our members. Visitors will be welcome.

* * *

MARCH FIELD TRIP will be taken to Fairfax, over the old grade to the head of Alpine Lake, and returning via Lake Lagunitas to Ross, a distance of about ten miles. A beautiful country and a fine walk.

Purchase round trip tickets to Fairfax and take Sausalito ferry leaving San Francisco at 8:45 a. m. Fare, 60c. Leader, Miss Hilda Baily.

* * *

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FEBRUARY MEETING: The seventy-third regular meeting of the Association was held on February 8th, in the Assembly Hall of the San Francisco Public Library, with President Kibbe in the chair; Miss Baily, Recording Secretary; fourteen members and eleven guests in attendance.

The entire session was devoted to a most interesting talk by Dr. H. C. Bryant on the "Birds of the Yosemite Valley", and we are able to record a few of the data given by him.

The Harlequin Duck is perhaps the most notable bird visitor to the valley. Two years ago, a pair was seen occasionally, and summer before last they appeared often on the Merced river, the female feeding through the gravel on the bottom. Last Spring a pair lived on the river at Government Island. Early in the season, the male was found injured and he afterwards died. The female soon disappeared and was not seen again. The Spotted Sandpiper lays its eggs in the sand along the river. Last summer, Dr. Bryant was fortunate enough to hear the whisper song of the blue-fronted jay. The White-headed Woodpecker has been found four consecutive years, nesting in stumps eight or nine feet high, near Glacier Point Hotel. Pileated Woodpeckers nest in the valley and are seen regularly on the floor, after the nesting season. The California Woodpecker is commonest on floor of the valley and for three years a pair has nested in the same hole in a square electric pole, while last summer a nest was found whose entrance was nearly on the under side of an almost horizontal limb. The Lewis Woodpecker is seen

every summer, usually well along in the season. The White-throated Swift nests in little crevices in high rocks or cliffs. Its legs are small, with toes spreading in all directions, which serve well for clinging to difficult footholds, but are apparently of little use on the ground. Dr. Grinnell observed one bird which was unable to rise from the ground.

The Violet-green Swallow nests in hollow trees, and the old birds are feeding the young in mid-summer. The swallow has a wing with straight edges, with an angle at the elbow, while the swift in flight resembles a cross-bow, with rounded edges to the wings. The female Western Tanager, approaching her nest, flies directly to a certain branch, close to the nest, but the male enters the tree at a distance and feels his way with care toward the nest. One of the most interesting finds of the season just past was that of a kinglet's nest, but the species could not be determined. The ruby-crowned formerly nested on the floor of the valley but no such nest has been identified for three years. The Golden-crowned Kinglet was heard in the valley last summer. Yellow and Tolmie warblers are common, the latter generally nesting in wild rose bushes. The Canyon Wren generally uses mammal hair of some sort to line its nest. Rabbit hair had been used in one found last summer. Cassin and Warbling vireos nest in the valley and a nest of the former was found last year only head high in an oak tree. The Cassin decorates the outside of its nest with spider-egg cases; the Warbling, with small pieces of paper or white bark.

The Russet-backed Thrush nests in willows along streams, while the Hermit Thrush is generally found in the deeper woods, but, five years ago, Dr. Bryant saw a hermit thrush within two feet of a tent on the side-hill at Camp Curry; another once nested in the space between a tent and its fly; two summers ago another nested in Camp Curry, and last summer one nested on the upright support of a tent and still another in a similar location five hundred yards distant. Why a hermit thrush should nest on a tent, or if he must do so, why he should select Camp Curry, are questions which will afford speculation to an inquiring mind.

Post-nesting migrants seen in the valley include the gnatcatcher, California jay, shrike, Western kingbird, bush-tit and green-backed goldfinches, the latter as early as August. Bush-tit nesting was first recorded in Indian Canyon last summer.



Following the meeting, the Board of Directors assembled and elected Miss W. C. Lindemann to membership.



CENSUS OF BIRDS' NESTS IN THE MUSIC CONCOURSE, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, Calif., for 1922.

In the January, 1920, number of THE GULL Dr. Barton W. Evermann, Director of the Museum, California Academy of Sciences, gave an account of the taking of the first census of the nests of the birds which select for building sites the elms, sycamores and maples that are planted in and around the oval depression in front of the band stand in Golden Gate Park. This oval is known as the "Music Concourse".

The first count was made in December, 1919, after the leaves had fallen from the trees, the number of nests recorded amounting to 57. Possibly some of these may have been nests of the previous year which were of sufficiently resistant construction to withstand the destructive agencies of moisture and time. This hardly seems likely, however, for each winter these trees are

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closely pruned so as to make their tops low and flat, and most of the old nests are removed by the pruners. In order to be sure of a clean field for the next season's census all the nests are pushed out of the trees, by means of poles, as fast as they are counted by our party.

In 1920 the trees were again examined, and the number of nests found to be 89, the majority of the nests appearing to be those of the House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis*). An account of this census was published in THE GULL for February, 1921.

In the fall and early winter of 1921 there was a long period of mild, calm weather, and the leaves remained upon the trees until quite late, thus preventing anything like a successful search for nests. Before these leaves had fallen a heavy gale arose and blew away leaves, nests, and everything that was not nailed down. There were so few nests left after this terrific gale that it would have been of little benefit to count them, so that no census was attempted that year.

Late in December, 1922, the trees were again in good condition for examination and the census-taking was resumed. This season it fell far below the two preceding ones and, in the 312 trees of the music concourse, only 25 nests were found.

There had been a great deal of wet weather in the fall, and many of the nests were so badly disintegrated, by the time the leaves were off the trees, that it was impossible to identify them in a satisfactory manner. They appeared to be, however, mostly those of the House Finch and Nuttall Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys nuttalli*).

While in 1920 many of the nests we found had been either robbed or deserted, as shown by remnants either of eggs or of birds, in 1922 there was little indication of any such state of affairs.

Reports from different sources, and my own experience as well, pointed to an unusual scarcity of breeding birds in many parts of the state, during the spring of 1922. As I was away on field work for most of that spring I am unable to judge of the status of avian life in Golden Gate Park at that time, but the same condition may have prevailed there as in other parts, and thus account for the diminution in the number of nests discovered.

JOSEPH MAILLIARD,
California Academy of Sciences.

In transmitting this very interesting contribution for publication, our Corresponding Secretary offers the explanation that the linnet was attracted to this cite by his love for music and a gracious toleration of the efforts of less favored humans. Mr. Lastreto continues:

"What has made our poor, persecuted linnet one of my favorites are his enthusiasm and the intense soulfulness of his song, displaying, as they do, a passion and intensity of feeling,—love for his mate and family, undoubtedly,—that have softened my ears to what other less sympathetic or sentimental listeners find "harsh". He is a handsome, brave fellow and, I believe, deserves the affection of all bird-lovers. It makes me happy to explain his prevalence near the band stand by the fact that he himself is a musician."

[In connection with the last paragraph of Mr. Mailliard's report, it may not be amiss to quote a sentence from the annual report of the Association in THE Gull for January, 1922:

"The exceptionally abundant rains of the winter of 1920-21 effected a marked readjustment of the bird population throughout our district, not only among visitants but as well with the resident species and we are looking forward with interest to developments of the coming season".

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A notable feature of bird observations hereabouts during the two seasons past has been the absence from notes of field trips of names of species which had become identified with certain localities in the minds of those who had been making periodical excursions in such regions. For instance, the writer has made trips from Mill Valley to Rock Spring in these two seasons without seeing or hearing a San Francisco towhee, although this would have been deemed impossible prior to that time. During 1922, certain birds notable as frequenters of his garden theretofore, became reduced in numbers to single individuals or sporadic callers. Without stressing the argument from the particular to the general, it does not seem unreasonable that the plentiful rains of these two years may have developed acceptable foraging grounds where the droughts of the several years prior had eliminated good forage, so that birds which had been crowded down into more densely populated districts became redistributed into habitats naturally more acceptable. For a demonstration of this theory, evidence would be required of increased occurrence elsewhere, but unfortunately it is one thing to ascertain where a bird is *not* found, and quite another to say where it *is*.—ED.]



FEBRUARY FIELD TRIP is notable as being the first one in the history of the Association which had to be postponed on account of the weather. Three members assembled at Fifth and Market Sts., San Francisco on the 11th, but it was then raining steadily and it was concluded to wait until the following Sunday. On the 18th, the party went to Easton Drive via motor-bus and followed the same route as last year. Hunger overcame the advance guard, which was found starting lunch in an old quarry some distance below the ridge. The rear guard continued to the ridge and lunched with the horned larks. Following the flume to the dam, a short stop was made at San Andreas Lake; skirting the lake nearly to its northerly end, we cut across lots down the canyonette paralleling the road, to the highway at Uncle Tom's Cabin and on to the trolley line for the return trip.

The day was fine and a good list was obtained, albeit not so large as last year. Members present were Mesdemoiselles Baily, Olive Burroughs, Gunn and Paroni; Mesdames Kibbe, Thomas and Thompson; Messrs. Bourne, Kibbe, Rapp, and Thomas. As guests, Mrs. F. S. Buckley and Mr. C. L. Thompson. Eleven members and two guests.

Birds encountered were: Glaucous-winged, Western and California gulls, scaup and white-winged scoter; surf scoter, ruddy duck, coot, sharp-shinned and red-tailed hawks; woodpecker, flicker, Allen and Anna hummers and black phoebe; horned lark, coast and California jays, meadowlark, purple finch and green-backed goldfinch; Nuttall and golden-crowned sparrows, junco, song and fox sparrows; San Francisco and California towhees, shrike, Audubon warbler and pipit; California thrasher, Vigors wren, plain titmouse, chickadee, bush and wren-tits; ruby-crowned kinglet, hermit thrush, Western robin, varied thrush and Western bluebird. Forty two species in all.

AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

FOR THE STUDY AND THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS

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Meets second Thursday of each month, at 8:00 p.m., in Assembly Hall of San Francisco
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